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IRAN - PERSIAN GULF: Iran intends to occupy Abu Musa and the Tunbs after the British withdraw later this year.

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Disputed Islands in the Persian Gulf



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IRAN - PERSIAN GULF: THE SHAH AND FOREIGN MINISTER ZAHEDI HAVE STATED THAT IRAN FIRMLY INTENDS TO OCCUPY THE DISPUTED ISLANDS OF ABU MUSA AND THE TUNBS AFTER THE BRITISH WITHDRAW LATER THIS YEAR.

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EARLY THIS WEEK, ZAHEDI ADMITTED TO AMBASSADOR MACARTHUR THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS AWARE THAT THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY THAT THE SHEIKHS WILL PUBLICLY AGREE TO IRAN'S CLAIM AND THAT THEY SEEMED TO PREFER TO HAVE TEHRAN SETTLE THE MATTER BY FORCE. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE BELIEVES THAT BOTH SIDES COULD LIVE WITH AN IRANIAN TAKE-OVER IF THE SHEIKHS OFFERED NO RESISTANCE AND SAUDI ARABIAN AND KUWAITI OBJECTIONS WERE LIMITED AND MODERATE.

ZAHEDI DISMISSED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY COULD BE LEFT OBSCURE, ARGUING THAT TO DO SO WOULD COURT MISCALCULATION BY "RADICAL ARABS AND OTHERS" THAT COULD LEAD TO CONFLICT IN THE FUTURE.

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